currents

what's happening at the bridge

Our *mission* at the bridge Presbyterian Church is to help people
Connect with God's people in your life
Connect with God's purpose in your life
Connect with God's passion for your life

Ways to Connect with God's *mission* at the bridge

Fri. Feb. 28 - 10:00 am - Book Club Small Group
Sun. Mar. 1 - Start of Sermon Based Small Groups (see info below)
Mon. Mar. 2 - 2:00 pm - Leland House Worship
Fri. Mar. 6 - 1:00 pm - Women of the bridge
Sun. Mar. 8 - Daylight Savings Time
Sun. Mar. 8 - Equal Exchange Coffee/Chocolate Sale between services
Sun. Mar. 8 - 11:45 am - Matthew's Ministry Packing
Mon. Mar. 9 - 2:00 pm - Leland House Craft
Thu. Mar. 19 - 1:00 pm - Chrismon Craft Small Group

Available Sermon Based Small Groups - Beginning March 1st

Sun. - 11:45 am - Warnock Room at the bridge - Facilitators - Jerry and Teresa Pierce
Mon.- 10:00 am - Room A at the bridge - Facilitator - Cathy Purves
Tue. - 4:00 pm - Room A at the bridge - Facilitators - Tom and Greer Broadwater
Tue. - 6:30 pm - at 242 Windchime Way (Mag. Greens) - Facilitator - Barbara Hedin
Wed.- 7:00 pm - at 1004 Rosea Ct. (Mag. Greens) Co-Facilitators Ruth Hepner/Fran Rumpf
Thu. 10:00 am - Room A at the bridge - Facilitator - Dr. Bob Knerr
Thu. - 6:30 pm - 2179 Talmage Dr. (Br. Forest) - Co-Facilitator - Wanda Batten/Charlie Riddle

Weekly Small Groups

Mon. - 6:00 pm - Boy Scouts and SOS (Siblings of Scouts)
Tue. - 10:00 am - Sleep Mats for Homeless
Tue. - 7:00 pm - Bridge to Serenity (Al-Anon Group) Meeting
Tue. - 7:00 pm - New Attitudes (A.A. Group) Meeting
Wed. - 8:00 am - Men's Prayer and Share Small Group
Sat. - 7:00 pm - New Attitudes (A.A. Group) Meeting
Sun. - 7:30 pm - There is a Solution (A.A. Group) Meeting

The bridge Core Habits

What does a disciple of Jesus Christ look like at ***the bridge****? Our core habits answer that question. Our core habits are:*

Pray daily - Worship together weekly - Welcome & Include everyone - Belong to a small group - Give generously - Cherish children - Forgive & reconcile continually - Serve our community

Worship Weekly

Date: March 1, 2020
Title: Unanticipated Good News: It's Not The Miracles
Text: Mark 1: 21 – 34; 40 - 45
Questions:

- Why did Jesus consistently demand those who witnessed his miracles NOT to say a word about it …to anyone…period?
- What moved Jesus to heal the leper in verse 41? How, besides physically, was this leper healed?
- What did Jesus demand from the leper before he was healed?

bridge "Notes" from Patty

When I was in Boston last week, Yo-yo Ma was there performing. My sister was able to snag one ticket. We bundled up my daughter and sent her out to the concert. Now ya'll have to know how much I would have loved to have gone, but nothing made me happier than to see my daughter get to go out, (while I got to babysit her two toddlers) and enjoy a great concert. It was a "Simple Gift" she received from my sister and we all helped out so that she could go. "Simple gifts" are wonderful. This video makes me smile. I will see you Sunday.

https://youtu.be/fYi9Vr8bHJY

Pray Daily

- Jean Jasper, Lisa Myers' aunt - colon cancer surgery
- Sallie Bohn - recovering from back surgery
- Jim Graham - health issues
- Diane Jobson - recovering from knee surgery

The bridge Launches Power of Prayer Project

On Wednesday, February 12 at Noon EST, chimes signaled those gathered at the bridge to pray our Prayer for Peace in unison—for peace throughout our community, nation, and world.

This prayer launched the Power of Prayer Ministry at the bridge. It was our hope that everyone, including friends, neighbors, and believers near and far, would join us at the same time, wherever they were, as we prayed our Prayer for Peace. To spread the word, we posted our prayer on social media, emailed friends and family, and invited congregations throughout our Presbytery to join us in prayer at Noon on February 12th. We plan to offer and disseminate similar prayers on issues of concern in our world on a quarterly basis.

For those who chose to pray the Prayer for Peace while gathered together on February 12, the bridge offered a half-hour service culminating in the unison reading of the Prayer for Peace. The service set a reverential tone for prayer, as we sang hymns and Taize Chants, and read scriptures relating to God's will for peace in our world. The Bible verses reminded us individually and collectively that we are neither alone nor abandoned in an increasingly turbulent and uncertain world, knowing that God will hear us and respond to our prayers for peace in his way and in his time.

The service closed with a blessing by Doug and we left to the uplifting music of Mahalia Jackson's version of the song, "You Can't Hurry God."

The Power of Prayer Project team includes Arleen Godshall, Cathy Purves, Marie Cantin, Judy Bath, Marilyn Vernon and Arlene Holmes.

The Prayer for Peace and Power

Oh God of Peace and Power, be active in our world! We are bold to pray for change. Where there is division, mistrust, and anger, inspire unity, hope, and kindness.

Lead and empower individuals, institutions, and nations to seek your will in all things, so that your true and lasting peace may transform our world and our lives.

Give us courage to break down the walls that divide us, to abandon the fear and falsehoods that alienate us from one another, and to recognize that we are all your children.

We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.

New Sermon Series: The Gospel of Mark: Unanticipated Good News

Author N. T. Wright wrote: “News is an announcement that something significant has happened. And good news is what Jesus and his first followers were all about.”

Just what is this good news that Mark proclaimed to the earliest, and often persecuted, Christian communities? Mark wrote his gospel to struggling believers who were asking themselves: Why doesn’t God just come down from heaven and make things better? Why are there not more miracles? Why did Jesus teach using such confusing parables? Where’s the promised regime change? Is this really good news?

Mark’s answer was that the risen Jesus works in the world in unanticipated, surprising, sometimes hidden ways. And the path to discovering these unanticipated, surprising ways of Jesus is by putting one’s total trust in this miracle working, parable teaching Messiah. This Lenten season we will look at the unanticipated good news of Jesus in the gospel of Mark

Sign up for the sermon-based small groups this Sunday on the signup table. Groups Begin this Week

Available Sermon Based Small Groups - Beginning March 1st

Sun. -11:45 am - Warnock Room at the bridge - Facilitators - Jerry and Teresa Pierce

Mon.- 10:00 am - Room A at the bridge - Facilitator - Cathy Purves

Tue. - 4:00 pm - Room A at the bridge - Facilitators - Tom and Greer Broadwater

Tue. - 6:30 pm - at 242 Windchime Way (Mag. Greens) - Facilitator - Barbara Hedin

Wed.- 7:00 pm - at 1004 Rosea Ct. (Mag. Greens) Co-Facilitators Ruth Hepner/Fran Rumpf

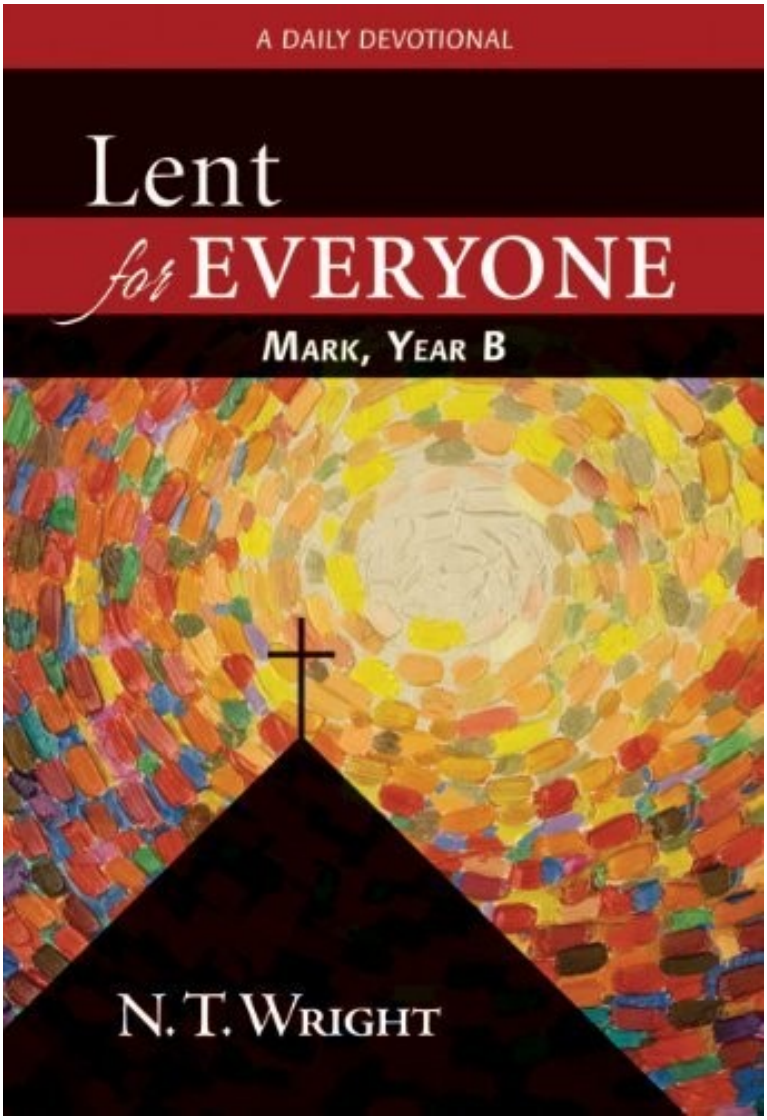
Thu. 10:00 am - Room A at the bridge - Facilitator - Dr. Bob Knerr

Thu. - 6:30 pm - 2179 Talmage Dr. (Br. Forest) - Co-Facilitator - Wanda Batten/Charlie Riddle

Lent Devotion

Dr. Doug is inviting everyone to purchase Mark for Lent by NT Wright - a daily devotional guide for Lent. The hope is that the entire bridge Presbyterian Church family will use this devotional to guide us through Lent.

The culmination of the sermon series will be a presentation of The Gospel of Mark, a one-man drama by acclaimed local actor Ashley Strand on Friday April 17th in worship center.



Welcome and Include Everyone

Servers for Sunday, March 1st

Ushers

9:00 am - Donna Maher, Don Ullum, Charlie Riddle and Mike Weldon

10:30 am – Bill and Barbara Harwell, Andrew and Cathy Purves

Communion Servers

9:00 am - Patti Pirher, Don Ullum, Pat Spencer and Elizabeth Murray

10:30 am - Larry and Julie Shackleton, Phil and Arleen Godshall

Communion Releasers

9:00 am - Charlie Riddle and Jill Weldon

10:30 am - Andrew and Cathy Purvis

Greeters

9:00 am - Charlie Riddle, Donna Maher, Mike and Jill Weldon

10:30 am - Bunny Macon, Bob Harper, Cathy and Rick Gross

Connecting Partners

9:00 am - Kathy Dixon

10:30 am - Barbara Harwell and Judy Bath

Give Generously

Last Sunday, Feb 23, 2020

Attendance	131 (4-week average)
Offering	$ 4,333 (4-week average)
Offering	$ 4,832 (8-week average)
Actual Attendance	120
Actual Offering	$ 3,459

Serve Our Community

Our featured Sustainable Mission Partner for March is the New Hope Clinic.

This non-profit organization provides free medical, dental and pharmacy care to low income, uninsured, Brunswick County adults. With a volunteer staff of healthcare professionals, they provide nearly 6,000 patient encounters annually.

Sheila Roberts, the Executive Director, will visit with us Sunday, March 8th to tell us about volunteer opportunities. Our suggested mission projects are spring cleaning of the yard around their clinic, and collecting items that are needed by their office staff and patients.

There is an Amazon wish list. If you would like to order directly from Amazon, please email Wanda at thebridgepres@gmail.com for the correct link. We will publish a list as soon as possible. Thank you for your generous gifts of donations and volunteer hours. Your Mission Team

Worship and Fellowship at Leland House

Our next visit with the residents of Leland House will be on Monday, March 2nd, at 2:00. A sign-up sheet is on the table outside the Worship Center for volunteers. This will be a Communion service, so we need extra helpers. Come and enjoy this time of worship and fellowship with our friends at Leland House.

Are you interested in helping restore lives? Interested in Helping provide safe shelter & meals? Our Winter Night's Program will soon be winding down. Motel rates will be going up. With NO permanent shelter in Brunswick County during the spring & hot summer months those in a crisis have nowhere to turn. Most of our neighbors in need call Streetreach seeking to reside on property. Our property has a small house that individuals reside in, it is in desperate need of some repairs. They do not have the professional skills to assist with several jobs.

The house needs new floors in living room area, needs some painting, a new 21 inch cubic refrigerator, lattice put on back screen porch, ministry driveway & parking area needs 2 tons of gravel , some minor landscaping for prayer area, etc... We need volunteers to help with donation of items, construction and renovation so that we can provide a safe and welcoming environment for the families in our community struggling due to eviction, illness, and domestic violence. Not handy? We are also accepting much needed donations!
Mailing address is Streetreach PO Box 1331, Shallotte, NC 27459

We ask you to please pray about this matter. During the Winter Night's Program (November 1-March 1) all our volunteers are busy assisting homeless & we are unable to do repairs at that time. The demand for help is as high in other months as Winter. Any help would be greatly appreciated.
God Bless!
Donna Streetreach 910-269-3057

Disaster Recovery News

The Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry (WARM), is looking for volunteers to help with construction projects in northeast Brunswick County. WARM's mission is to repair, rebuild, and make homes accessible, and to inspire service, generosity, and hope. To get on the volunteer mailing list and receive a list of work opportunities for the following weeks contact the volunteer coordinator, Lindsay Miles, at 910-399-7563 or Lindsaymiles@warmnc.org Choose the days and the amount of time you can volunteer to work. Bring lunch and drink to the work site. WARM has tools and professional staff to guide and help volunteers regardless of skill level.

Save The Date: This is a reminder about the Brunswick County Hurricane EXPO on Saturday, April 25th, from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm at St. Brendan's Catholic Church on Rt. 17 in Shallotte. Volunteers from ***the bridge*** are going to be needed for greeters, parking attendants, and the un-met needs registration table. Look for a sign up sheet on one of the clip boards.

Belong to a Small Group

Our new Sermon Based Small Groups (SBSG) will begin the week of March 1st. The Series ***The Gospel of Mark : Unexpected Good News*** will run for 7 weeks; through the week of April 12th.

Sign up sheets will be on the table in the hall

Cherish Children

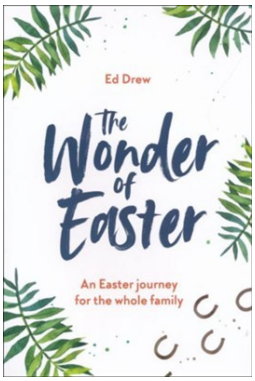
bridge Builders, our Sunday morning children's program, is located in suite 206 during the 10:30 service. A nursery for infants and toddlers is also provided during the 10:30 service

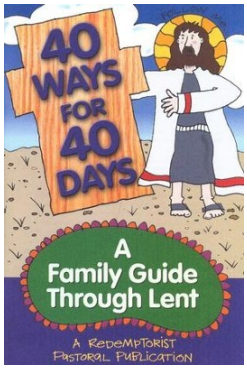
Sunday March 1st:

Teacher: Elizabeth Murray

Toddlers/Babies: Judy Hogg and Gidget Karlof

Lent Devotional Ideas for Families





Misc. Announcements

Celebrating Birthdays at the bridge - March

Fran Rumpf	1
John Vernon	8
Cathy Boettcher	10
ben Lindsey	10
Richard Hepner	14
Cindy Rupprecht	14
Violet Stevens	17
Carol Nelson	28
Susan Stanewick	31

To our bridge family,

During the last few weeks, you have come alongside and supported us in so many ways. Thank you. Your calls, texts, visits, and cards have been overflowing with love and compassion during a very difficult time. The food has been freely given in quantity and love, and has been such a huge blessing, relieving the burden of caring for our large family.

You helped move furniture and offered lodging to family members: that may have seemed minor to you, but meant the world to us. Your willingness to volunteer and “cover” the desk so that Wanda could be with her parents without worry was another testament of your love for our family.

So many helped with the memorial service in so many areas. Our extended family mentioned with wonder your care for us multiple times. Thank you to those who stood in the freezing weather to direct traffic and parking, to those who greeted our family and out-of-town friends with smiles and hugs, to those who prepared and brought refreshments, and to so many others who helped.

As we move forward without Ann, we realize we do not grieve alone. We know we are surrounded by those who loved her and who love our family. Thank you again for the outpouring of support and love.

The Batten Family

Bridge Community Bulletin Board

Dr. Doug Invites You to Get Involved in The North Carolina Rice Festival

Last Day to Purchase Tickets is Sunday, March 1st

Friends, I currently serve on the board of directors of the NC Rice Festival. Along with covenant partner, Arlene Holmes and other Leland-area citizens, we are trying to create an annual festival in northern Brunswick Co. I would like to invite you to join us at our first-ever gala on Friday, March 6th at the Leland Cultural Arts Center. You can purchase tickets to the gala for $100 per person or become a part of the Patron Circle. Please see me if you are interested. Below find some additional info about the Rice Festival.

Many residents of this community are unaware of the significance of rice production in the history of the coastal counties of southeastern North Carolina and the connection between this area and the Rice Coast of Africa, especially Sierra Leone. For example, many are unaware that in 1860, Brunswick County produced 6.7 million pounds of rice or about 90 percent of the state's total rice production. Additionally, Brunswick County form the most northern section of the Gullah/Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, a federally recognized cultural grouping. The NC Rice Festival Board along with the Leland Tourism Development Authority have come together to tell the story of the rice growing culture of this region.

The inaugural event of the new North Carolina Rice Festival will be held on March 6, 2020 with a VIP Reception & Dinner Gala. An expansive, education-filled, family-friendly portion of the Rice Festival is scheduled for March 2021. Several other educational events are scheduled between the March 2020 Dinner Gala and the March 2021 Festival.

The North Carolina Rice Festival has two main objectives: 1) to educate Festival attendees about the rich history of rice production in Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender Counties; and 2) to create a family-friendly and fun destination event in northern Brunswick County. As a Patron Circle Member, you will play a vital role in the achievement of these objectives.

The cost of a Patron Circle Membership for the 2020 VIP Gala is $500 and comes with the following benefits:
- 2 Tickets to the pre-Gala VIP Reception featuring;
- 2 Tickets to the seated Gala dinner prepared by 2 celebrity chefs;
- Recognition in the Gala Program;
- Video and podium recognition at the Gala dinner;
- Recognition as a Founding Member of Patron's Circle of the North Carolina Rice Festival; and first choice for sponsorship of the 2021 NC Rice Festival.

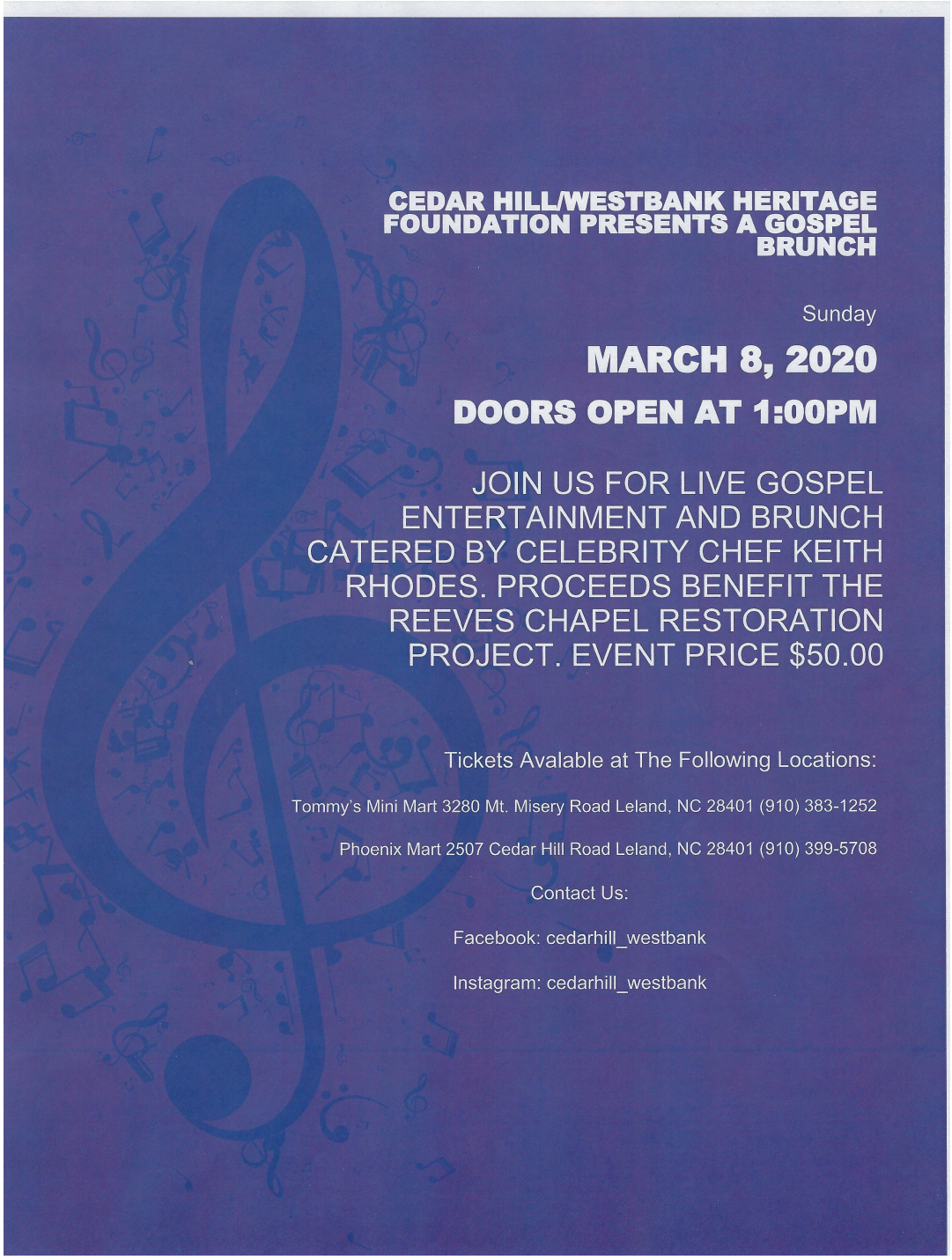
Bridge Community Bulletin Board

Bridge Community Bulletin Board

Dr. Doug Invites You to Sunday Gospel Brunch

Last Day to Purchase Tickets is Sunday, March 1st

Friends, I serve on the board of directors of Cedar Hill/West Bank Heritage Foundation. One of the primary projects of the CH/WBHF is the restoration of Reaves Chapel in Navassa. The historic Reaves Chapel A.M.E. Church is one of the Cape Fear regions' most culturally and historically significant African American structures and is one of the oldest African American buildings in southeastern North Carolina. It was built shortly after the Civil War on the bluffs of the Cape Fear River by enslaved people of the Cedar Hill Plantation. In 1911 it was moved inland by the congregation, using logs and a team of oxen to its current location, a parcel then owned by Edward Reaves, a formerly enslaved man for whom the Chapel was named.

On Sunday March 8, 2020 there will be gospel brunch fundraiser with proceeds going toward the renovation of the Reaves Chapel. The brunch will include live entertainment and brunch catered by celebrity chief, Keith Rhodes. This is a perfect post-worship lunch for folks at the bridge. Please join me for a great meal for a great cause. Doors open at 1:00pm. Tickets are available through Dr. Doug.

Bridge Community Bulletin Board